

**California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

**2000 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Riverside (east)

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Michael Kisko

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

*source:* I K Curtis Services, Inc  
*date:* mostly 10/00, some 11/00  
*scale:* 1:36,000  
*film type:* 9×9 true color prints  
*coverage gaps:* Gaps exist in the extreme northern and southern, mountainous areas. Photo coverage gaps in Palo Verde and Salton Sea areas filled by use of 2000 SPOT and TM data.

**WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:* Indian Wells  
*county:*  
*others:*

➤ *personal contacts:* Steve Bigley at Coachella Valley Water Dist. (760) 398-2651

➤ *websites:* Coachella Valley Water Dist: [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org)  
New golf courses: [www.directoryofgolf.com](http://www.directoryofgolf.com)  
New Shadow Lake Community: [www.shadowlakeestates.com](http://www.shadowlakeestates.com)

**1998-2000 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ P, S, U → D

There was a moderate amount of conversion of ag land to urban land this update with 23 changes taking place. The majority of these changes took place in the San Jacinto and Indio areas. New homes accounted for most of the conversions. A few golf course communities, such as the PGA West Golf Course on the Indio quad, also

accounted for some of the urbanization of farmlands. Other notable conversions included a wastewater treatment facility identified on the La Quinta quad and the Valley Sanitation District Water Reclamation Facility ponds on the Indio quad. Meanwhile, in the Blythe area, distribution facilities in the area were expanded with a new Con-Way Western Xpress trucking facility on the Ripley quad.

➤ L, G, X → D

The conversion of local, grazing, or “other” land to urban land was by far the largest conversion taking place this update with 63 changes! The quads exhibiting the most change were the La Quinta (19), Cathedral City (11), Indio (10), and Beaumont (9) quads. Most of the conversions were a result of new home construction. In addition, many of these new homes were associated with golf courses such as the new Marriott’s Shadow Ridge Golf Course community on the Cathedral City quad. In all, 15 new golf courses, golf course communities, or expansions of courses were added in this update alone.

Other notable conversions of marginal lands to urban land included the new Desert Hot Springs High School on the Desert Hot Springs quad, the new Agua Caliente Casino on the Cathedral City quad, the new Indian Wells Tennis Gardens complex on the La Quinta quad, and the Blythe Sanitary Landfill on the McCoy Wash quad.

➤ P, S, U → L, G

A modest 17 conversions of prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or unique farmland to farmland of local importance took place this update. In every case, prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance was converted to farmland of local importance after having been fallow for three or more updates as per the farmland of local importance definition for Riverside County. These conversions were pretty evenly distributed throughout the county with the Valerie quad experiencing the most changes. No conversions from ag land to grazing land were made this update.

➤ P, S, U → X

There were only 9 instances of ag land being converted to “other land” this update. Most of these changes were attributable to unique farmland being fallow three or more updates. Other changes included an area with some huge hay storage shelters filled with baled hay on the Blythe quad and a small area of prime farmland being converted to other land on the Hemet quad due to the creation of the Southwestern Riverside Co. Multi-Species Reserve in which no agriculture is allowed.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U

There was only a moderate increase in ag lands with 22 conversions of local, grazing, or “other” lands to ag land taking place. However, this is not to say that agriculture is not doing well in much of Riverside County. Agriculture seems to be thriving in its “stronghold” areas of the Coachella Valley, Salton Sea, and Palo Verde, it simply isn’t expanding very much (other than the new citrus mentioned below).

Notable additions of ag land this update include some new date palms and citrus crops on the McCoy Wash quad across from the Blythe Sanitary Landfill and a huge (1,000+ acre) citrus orchard on the Ripley quad.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

P,S,L,X→W Added part of Diamond Valley Lake on Hemet quad.

X→W Added Shadow Lake (water ski lake) to West Berdoo Cyn. quad.

L→X Added Coachella Valley fish farm tanks on Mecca quad into “other land” since Riverside Co. farmland of local importance definition didn’t mention aquaculture

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

The “hot spots” for future urban growth are contained on the Rancho Mirage, La Quinta, Cathedral City, and Indio quads. Urbanization is proceeding rapidly in the form of new homes and golf courses.

One area that deserves a careful field check is the southern, mountainous area of the county as I did not have the time to get out that way and did not have photo coverage of much of the area. There are numerous small plots of ag land here and there that may be fallow but may have not been checked recently.

**OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS:** *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

The quads aren’t too bad, I just wish they weren’t so faded so that I could read a few of the street names. I tried to write down any of the streets I could identify while on my field check, hope they come in handy!

**LABOR ESTIMATE:** *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

<i>photo interpretation, start date:</i>	1/25/01
<i>photo interpretation, number of days:</i>	9
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	2/20/01-2/23/01
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	9

\* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:  
[www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)*